Abstract of the Disclosure

A network has a finite number of addressable devices plus an additional number of spare devices. A system and method is provided for switching out a failed device and

5   switching in a spare device. A controller is connected to a switch for each device, allowing the controller to connect the device to the network. When a device is switched off the network and a new device connected thereto, the newly connected device is able to arbitrate for the address previously allocated to the removed device. In such a manner, an unlimited number of spare devices may be provided for a network with only a finite

10   number of addressable devices.